

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 32-35, 37-38 and 41-51 are pending in the application. Claims 32, 35, 41 and 49-51 are amended; and Claim 40 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 32, 35, 41, 44 and 49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and Claims 32-35, 37-38, and 40-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Brozowski et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,559,871, herein Brozowski) in view of Gudmundson et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,907,704, herein Gudmundson).

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the language of Claims 32, 35, 41, and 49-51 cited as the basis for this rejection is removed from the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 32, 35, 41, 44 and 49-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 32-35, 37-38, and 40-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Brozowski in view of Gudmundson. In response to this rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 32, 35, 41 and 49-51 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 32, for example, is amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 40 and recites an object content structure management method for managing a content structure of a root object, wherein

...a plurality of child objects of a same type may be held under a schema definition of types of the child objects capable of held by the root object; and

¹ e.g., specification, at least at original Claim 40 and p. 98, l. 22 – p. 99, l. 17.

one of a maximum number and a minimum number of the child objects capable of being held are displayed in said tree structure.

Independent Claims 35, 41 and 49-51, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks presented below are applicable to each of amended independent Claims 32, 35, 41 and 49-51.

Turning to the applied primary reference, Brozowski describes an asynchronous tree navigator graphical user interface, which allows a user to asynchronously query for data and display the results of said query.²

Brozowski, however, fails to teach or suggest that “***one of a maximum number and a minimum number of the child objects capable of being held are displayed in said tree structure,***” as recited in pending independent Claims 32, 35, 41 and 49-51.

In rejecting this feature, as previously recited in Claim 40, the Office Action relies on col. 13, ll. 21-48 and Fig. 2 of Brozowski. This cited portion of Brozowski describes that once partial data is received in response to the request to load data (block 106), the data which is available may be loaded into the tree navigator graphical user interface (block 108). Thereafter, a placeholder object may be displayed in the tree view display (block 110). As used herein, the term "placeholder object" refers to an object which is configured differently from the normal representation of the object (an object displayed in its normal or customary representation is referred to herein as a "normal" object) so as to provide the user information regarding the loading status of the object. As discussed above, the tree navigator graphical user interface may be implemented so that each time an object is loaded into the tree view display, certain additional information (which may or may not be displayed) is loaded into the tree navigator graphical user interface. For instance, when a particular object is loaded into the tree navigator graphical user interface and displayed in the tree view display, some or all of the data associated with that object which would be displayed in a data display that is

² Brozowski, Abstract.

associated with the tree view display may also be loaded automatically along with the object. As soon as the data comprising the object is loaded into the tree navigator graphical user interface, it is displayed in the tree view display in a placeholder object. This notifies the user that while some data has been loaded in response to the request to load data, certain additional data associated with the placeholder object has not yet been loaded.

Thus, this cited portion of Brozowski, along with Fig. 2, merely describes that an object is displayed only when it already exists, or that a placeholder object is displayed when a request to load data is received. Therefore, Brozowski fails to teach or suggest that “*one of a maximum number and a minimum number of the child objects capable of being held are displayed in said tree structure,*” as recited in pending independent Claims 32, 35, 41 and 49-51.

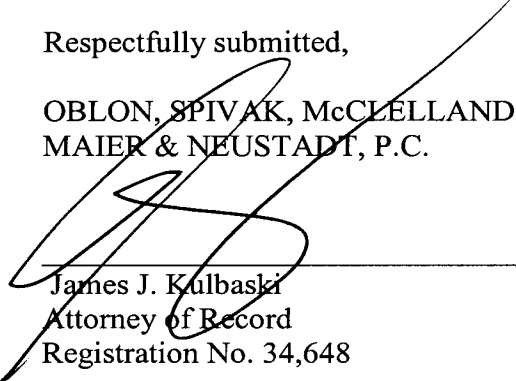
Further, Gudmundson is relied upon to reject features no longer recited in the claims and fails to remedy the above noted deficiencies of Brozowski.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent Claims 32, 35, 41 and 49-51 (and the claims that respectively depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 32-35, 37-38 and 41-51 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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